



Editor:
CDR Peter Vermilyea,
PharmD.

PREPARE EARLY:

- Check school website calendar every 2 or 3 months for events
- Get business cards made well in advance
- Document UPOC activities and events on our website
- Find out if you will have wireless internet access before you go to a university

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University Point of Contact Newsletter

An informational and informal publication of the USPHS Pharmacist Professional Advisory Committee

WWW.RECRUITMENTDRAFT.ORG

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Is Your Pharmacy School's Website Linked to the USPHS?

In the last issue of *Point of Contact* newsletter, it was reported that a link directing students to the USPHS website was present on only 14 of the 89 (15.7%) schools. How do we fare now, 6 months after the last report? I reviewed 30 pharmacy school websites, and found links to the USPHS (or IHS) on only 10 of them. Apparently we have not been able to improve the situation at all.

One pharmacy school's website I reviewed had links to most major pharmacist employers such as CVS, Walgreens, and even the U.S. Army. Where was the USPHS? You might say to yourself, "But I give a talk to students every fall. I'm sure they have all heard about the USPHS..." I recently spoke to two 4th year pharmacy students who had never heard of the USPHS until they were on rotation with the IHS. On investigation, I found that their school's UPOC has an active presence at their school. The take home message is that no matter how active you may be with your school, there are still students that need to be reached.

As a UPOC, you can assist publicity efforts by contacting the webmasters for the school's site and request a page for "career opportunities" in pharmacy be added to direct students to the following site: [http://](http://www.hhs.gov/pharmacy/main.html)





www.hhs.gov/pharmacy/main.html

During an on-site school visit is a great time to get the names of the people you need to contact to make this happen. If you aren't successful at getting the link posted to the website, there is probably no harm in checking back every couple of months to see if the addition is possible. Many schools

did not have an appropriate place on their website for a links to employers. If enough employers ask about employment links for students, webmasters may eventually respond to the requests. Take a look at the screen shot at the bottom of this page from Mercer University. They have links to various employers, including the USPHS. This is a great example of increasing our exposure to students. We hope that students surfing their university website will look at this list and say to themselves, "Hmm... U.S. Public Health Service. What's this?" And their career begins with one click of the mouse.

Employment Opportunities



Choose one for employment listings.
Please contact Judy Udell, Student Affairs and Admissions Office if you want to post a listing.
udell_jm@mercer.edu - (678) 547-6183 - fax: (678) 547-6063

Professional Links

- Alumni Career Network (PDF)
- Rx Career Center
- Pfizer Guide to Careers in Pharmacy
- PharmacyJobsUS
- Rx Recruiters
- Great Pharmacy Jobs
- U.S. Public Health Service PharmPAC
- The Drug Information & the Community Pharmacy Residency Programs

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MERCER

Keeping Up...

Revisions to PKBS:

The Pharmacy's Best Kept Secret is undergoing some slight revisions, and will be published soon. Explain to students how to read the table. The 2008 revision will include a 3.5% pay raise, and has a new column highlighting a Commissioned Corps pension an O-6 officer would receive after 30 years' service. This was previously only in the fine print at the bottom of the page. It is compared to a retirement plan of a typical 401k plan with matching, calculated for withdrawal over a 25 year period. Be sure to mention the limitations and risks of relying entirely on your own investments for your retirement, and the Commissioned Corps pension is a guaranteed non-contributory pension plan with the option to contribute even more using pre-tax investments in the Thrift Savings Plan. Most employers only offer 401(k) & 403(b) plans that require employee contributions.

Relay this to potential applicants:

- Jr. and Sr. COSTEP application deadline is 12/31/07. Selections are made in March, announcements are made at the end of April or early May.
- Changes to application process are underway:
 - Physical exams will be performed *after* commissioning since most applicants can be accurately pre-screened by the self report.
 - Electronic Call to Active Duty (ECAD) development is in the final stages, Full implementation is expected by end of December.



Enrollment for University Point of Contacts Begins November 1st.

The fall semester is in full-swing, and universities across the country are sponsoring fall career fairs. By now, as a UPOC, you should have been in touch with school administrators and faculty members to coordinate PHS representation at events on campus.

If you are not a UPOC, now is the time to get involved! We are accepting nominations for primary or secondary points of contact. Check the list of POCs for the schools that you have interest in online at <http://www.hhs.gov/pharmacy/poc.html>. Even if you see officers already listed for each school, it doesn't mean that an additional contact would be turned away. Many times, there are events that officers are unable to attend, so having a larger pool of volunteer to draw on is better. Additionally, the greater the PHS presence at events, the better. Imagine a career fair in which everywhere a student looks, a Commissioned Corps officer is seen! Also, if you feel you can no longer devote the time necessary for being a UPOC, send an email to CDR Beth Fritsch (beth.fritsch@fda.hhs.gov) or CDR Peter Vermilyea (peter.vermilyea@wihcc.org).

CAPT Nicholas Quaglietta presents award to student at University of Arizona

As printed in the Univ. of Arizona College of Pharmacy Bulletin

Kwyn Forbregd won a 2006-2007 United States Public Health Service (USPHS) Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award. Forbregd received the honor for coordinating "Operation Diabetes" and providing community diabetes screening and referral care. She accepted the award from Captain Nicholas Quaglietta of the USPHS at COP's APhA-ASP awards ceremony March 27.



PHS Active in Maryland! By LCDR Catherine Chew

University of Maryland at Baltimore (UMB) has supplied many pharmacists for the PHS. The sight of returning alumni in uniform provides an immediate opportunity to engage students, faculty, and administrators about the pharmacist role in the PHS. Accordingly, there are several events at UMB that officers can attend every year. Each event includes a different pharmacy population, so as a UPOC, we reach a large range of pharmacists, and pharmacists-to-be throughout the year. UMB has their early decision interviews in October and their regular admission interviews in December. Alumni are always needed for the group interviews. This is a great opportunity to target pharmacy school applicants, even before they begin school. Most have never seen the uniform before so this opens their eyes early on to the possibilities as a PHS pharmacist.

In October, UMB also holds their Annual Career Fair. We have had a good turn-out in the past few years, being one of the most highly represented booths. We request the exhibit and promotional material from our Associate Recruiter Lead, Christine Bina. During the career fair, we introduce the PHS, and then give them material to read at home (PHS CD, Pharmacy's Best Kept Secret (found on

www.recruitmentdraft.org), and websites). We also have a laptop constantly running the PHS powerpoint video (<http://www.recruitmentdraft.org/Resources/PHS.ppt>). This career fair is for fourth year students who have begun applying and interviewing for jobs. What has been surprising is that after the career fair, we have many other exhibitors asking us for more information, and how to apply.

Last October, I was the PHS speaker for the first annual APhA-ASP and Pharmacy Leadership Society's (PLS) Leadership and Innovation Fair. After being introduced by the PLS president, I was able to speak to students one-on-one as they came to the PHS table during the luncheon. This leadership fair was open to the entire student body. First year students were introduced to PHS for the first time, while upperclassmen were more interested in applying for the COSTEP programs, loan repayment opportunities, residencies, the different agencies, and locations throughout the US.

Last April, Rebecca DeCastro and I organized the first DHHS Federal Agency Employees and University of Maryland School of Pharmacy



Alumni Reception. It was attended by the dean of the school of pharmacy, the president of MPhA, and Joe Demino, president of the alumni association, UMB Development and Alumni Office staff, and several of the alumni you see in the attached photo. By joining these organizations, we can keep updated on events at the school and the practice of pharmacy at the state level.

Finally, at the end of every school year, PHS officers are invited to attend the Alumni Association Graduation Banquet in May. We stand out noticeably before graduating students, family, faculty and alumni as we all wear our uniforms. Every year, we present the USPHS Public Health Excellence Award to one graduating student. Last year, this award was given to ENS John Watts, a SrCOSTEP. LT Watts is now on duty with the Bureau of Prisons. As an UPOC for UMB, we have opportunities to reach pre-pharmacy students, first to fourth year students, alumni, faculty, family members and even other practicing pharmacists. If any graduates of UMB would like to get involved, sign up at <http://lcdrdecastro.brinkster.net> to be alerted about upcoming UMB events. We welcome you to join us at any event in any capacity.



Email UPOC school reports & photos to CDR Peter Vermilyea at peter.vermilyea@wihcc.org